

Introduced by Senator MigdenFebruary 18, 2005

An act to amend Section 52910 of the Education Code, relating to career technical education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 485, as introduced, Migden. Career technical education.

Existing law requires school districts to adopt a course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, that includes, among other things, career technical education.

Existing law declares with respect to employment preparation and career education programs, the intent of the Legislature to require that all pupils enrolled in the public schools be afforded the best possible opportunity to complete the equivalent of 12 years of systematic training to enable them to graduate from high school, in a manner that will enable them to advance to colleges or universities and to meet entry-level requirements for chosen occupational fields.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 52910 of the Education Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 52910. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the
- 4 following:
- 5 (a) That California's present employment preparation and
- 6 career education programs need to be strengthened and expanded

1 to meet the needs of employers for a skilled work force and
2 student and employee demands for career-vocational preparation
3 and occupational training, including the use of computers and
4 other technologies.

5 (b) That changes occurring in California's economy make it
6 imperative that there be available a work force with the personal
7 and occupational skills and knowledge to productively support
8 new economic and technological developments. The Legislature
9 also finds a need to improve coordination among the many
10 service providers funded by federal and state funds to avoid
11 unnecessary duplication of programs and services.

12 (c) That it is in the best interest of the state to provide all
13 students with a cohesive and well articulated system of
14 career-vocational preparation and occupational training which
15 prepares students for roles as family members and community
16 members, leaders, and productive workers. The Legislature also
17 finds that the alternative means authorized in subdivision (b) of
18 Section 51225.3 are currently being underutilized by school
19 districts.

20 (d) That students in California's public schools face
21 inadequate access to quality career-vocational preparation and
22 occupational training programs, and declares that providing high
23 quality curriculum and instruction in this area is a high priority of
24 the state. The Legislature believes that all students should be
25 prepared with basic job entry skills at the completion of their
26 schooling.

27 (e) That every student shall attain a minimum of 12 years of
28 systematic study or its equivalent that effectively prepares the
29 student to enter college, a job, or advanced preparation.

30 (f) That the number of pupils who drop out of school is
31 excessive and detrimental to the public interest, as is the
32 excessively high rate of unemployment among youths.

33 (g) That dropping out of school reduces a young person's
34 potential for future employment and income, and depresses the
35 productivity of the state's economy.

36 (h) That it is in the state's best interests to provide all pupils
37 with a cohesive, defined, and well-articulated system of career
38 education and job training.

39 (i) That pupils enrolled in public intermediate, secondary, and
40 postsecondary schools face diminished access to quality

1 vocational and career educational programs, and that the
2 provision of a high quality curriculum and course of instruction
3 in these areas are a high priority within the state.

4 (j) That a pupil's pursuit of career education programs in
5 secondary schools and their use to satisfy the requirements for
6 admission to baccalaureate postsecondary educational programs
7 should not be mutually exclusive.

8 (k) That vocational education and basic academic skills should
9 not be viewed as competitive or alternative programs, but rather
10 should be viewed as complementary educational programs.

11 (l) That there are many opportunities, particularly for pupils
12 who are not college bound, to obtain basic academic skills in an
13 applied manner through vocational education programs.

14 It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this chapter to
15 require that all pupils enrolled in the public schools be afforded
16 the best possible opportunity to complete the equivalent of 12
17 years of systematic training to enable ~~him or her~~ *them* to graduate
18 from high school, in a manner ~~which~~ *that* will enable ~~him or her~~
19 ~~them~~ to advance to a college or university *colleges or universities*
20 and to meet entry-level requirements for a chosen occupational
21 ~~field~~ *fields*. The Legislature recognizes that in order to graduate
22 from high school, pupils must complete the prescribed course of
23 study of sufficient rigor and duration as necessary to enable them
24 to effectively function as family members, citizens, leaders, and
25 working members of their communities.